**Character Quotes**

**The Strategy In Steps**

1. Preview the reading selection and selct several quotes by a character that illustrate different aspects of the character’s personality. Select quotes that encourage students to develop varying descriptions of the kind of person this character might be.

2. Write each quote on a separate slip of paper or index card.

3. Organize students into groups of 3-4 students. Give each group a different quote to consider and have them generate as many words as possible that might describe a character based on the quote.

4. After each groups has compiled a list of descriptors, have members from each group read the group’s quote to the class and then share the list of character qualitites and traits that the group associates with that character.

5. Keep notes of students’ responses on the board. After all groups have presented, inform the class that all of the quotes were said by the same character.

6. Invovle students in making generalizations about the character or individual. Have students work together to write a preliminary profile of the character using the information presented by the groups.

(You may want to provide students a paragraph frame for the character profile. For example, you might give the following to students to complete: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is/was the type of person who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He/she also seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Other traits of his/her personality included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”)

7. During and after the reading assignment, have student return to their character profiles to add new characteristics or change their profile to better fit the character.

8. Have students select additional quotes from the text that provide new information about the character or have them create a character profile of a second character.

Example Character Quotes from *The BFG*

* I would so much love to have a jumbly big elefunt and go riding through green forests picking peachy fruits off the trees all day long.
* I is never having a chance to go to school. I is full of mistakes. They is not my fault. I do my best.
* Every human bean is diddly and different. Some si scrumdiddlyumptious and some is uckyslush.
* If I come along and I is picking a lovely flower, if I is twisting the stem of the flower till it breaks, then the plant is screaming. I can hear it screaming and screaming very clear.
* I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, but somehow or other they is always getting squiff-squiddled around.
* I is a dream-blowing giant… I is scuddling away to other places to blow dreams into the bedrooms of sleeping children. Nice dreams. Lovely golden dreams. Dreams that is giving the dreamers a happy time.

From Dahl, R. (1982). *The BFG*. London: Puffin.